

THE
Last Dying Speeches,
CONFESSION,
AND
EXECUTION

*Rice Evans, Margaret Corbet, Elizabeth Ford alias
Jackson, and Katharine Banks, who were Execu-
ted on KENNINGTON Common*

IN THE
County of Surrey,

The 19th of March 1683.

For MURDERS, EFFRONTRIES, and Burglaries.

With the Manner of their Behaviour in the *Magdalene Prison*,
after their CONDEMNATION.

IT is appointed for all Men, good and bad, once to dye. Nature requi-
ring it as a Debt since the Fall of *Adam*, but the Scandal of Dying, is
to dye as an Evil Doer, when the Prudence of the Magistrate in dispen-
sing the Law, is forced to cut off some as rotten Branches, that if lon-
ger permitted, would devour their Fellow Members, and by infecting the
rest, bring all Order into Confusion, and Kingdoms to Destruction: and
one would think, if the Severities of the Law, with the Miserie, and
Disappointment of being forcibly deprived of that Life which Men gene-
rally covet could not deter Rational Creatures from insisting upon those
Rocks; yet the frequent Examples, and Executions of diverse, at almost
each Assize and Sessions, should at length so awaken the living Malefactor,
as to terrifie them into a Reformation. But, an Example to the contrary
being now before us, I shall add no more of this kind, but proceed to ac-
quaint you, That eight Persons received Sentence of Death at the As-
sises held for the County of Surrey, in the Burrough of *Southwark*, on Se-
nturday the 15th of *March* 1683. One of which, viz. *Margaret Ford*, be-
ing reprieved upon Pleading her Belly, and by a Jury of Women found to
be with quick Childs, three others, viz. *Elizabeth Toman, John Brown,*
and *John Norwood*, upon the humble Application of their Relations and
Friends, are also reprieved for some short time. The rest were, pursuant to
their Sentence, Executed, at the usual Place of Execution for that County,
at *Kennington Common*, on *Wednesday* the 19th of the said Month of *March*,
1683. A more particular Account of each of the said Persons, take is fol-
loweth, Viz.

Rice Evans of *Kennington*, in the Parish of *Lambeth*, having been Indicted for Killing his Wife, upon the Tryal it appeared, that the said *Evans* keeping several Cows, and his Wife trading as a Milk-Woman; but happening to lye in Child-bed, he in a Week, or two, or before she was in a condition to rise, forced her to go out and sell the Milk: also, upon her selling a Calf cheaper than he thought it worth, or some other very little Provocation, he so kick'd and abus'd her, that by reason of his said ill Usage, she in a few days died. The Midwife who laid her particularly deposing, that the Blows he had given her, and unreasonably forcing her to work, was the cause of her Death; he was therefore found Guilty of Willfull Murder, and received Sentence of Death accordingly: But both at his Tryal, and before his Condemnation, when he was ask'd what he had to say, why Judgment should not pass upon him to dye according to Law, he was in one Story, that the Midwife and the rest had sworn falsely against him, and that he was not guilty: in which *Alseverations*, he continued afterwards in the Prison; declaring, in his way of speaking (being a *Welshman*) to all who came to see him, that he was an Innocent Man, and particularly to several Ministers of the Church of England, that either by the Sheriffs Procurement, or their own Inclinations, used all possible Endeavours to work in him, and the rest of the Condemned Malefactors, a Confession of their Crime, and a Sence of their sad Condition. With which the said *Evans* did not seem to be much affected, but remained in a kind of discontented, careless manner, or like a Person stupified and ignorant.

Notice being sent to seven of them that they must prepare to dye on Wednesday the 19th of March, herein before mentioned; and that time drawing near, the Sacrament of the Lords Supper was administered to them, after which, *Rice Evans* used many fresh *Alseverations*, saying to the Minister, What, Man, do you think I will damn my own Soul to deny the Truth now I have received God's Holy Sacrament? No, I will not do it. I tell thee Man, I am not Guilty; but they have maliciously sworn against me, and I must dye wrongfully: I have not kill'd my Wife, the Nurse who look'd to her would not swear it.

The Night before they were Executed a Reprieve came for *Elinor Tyman*, who was condemned to dye for Man-slaughter, in killing her Daughter-in-Law at *Croydon*; and also *John Normood* the Out-meal-man, of *Croydon*, who was convicted upon the Oaths of two poor People who swore a Robbery against him. In the Morning, before Execution, another Reprieve was produced for *John Broman*. So only four remaining, they were put into a Cart together, about Ten in the Fore-noon, and drawn with three Horses to *Kennington Common*.

The three Divines who visited them in the Prison rid by in a Coach, and when come to the Place of Execution, went all up into the Cart, and renewed their Endeavours to produce a Confession in the Prisoners, and prepare them for their Death; one of them at least 15 or 20 times pressing *Rice Evans* with all possible Earnestness, how necessarily it was for him to Confess, and repent of the Cruelty to his Wife, to which he at length very passionately answered, What, do you think I am a Mad-man, to deny it now I am going to dye, if I was guilty? I tell you man, I am not guilty of the Blood laid to my Charge: It's true, I am a *Welshman*, and have been angry sometimes, but I have done no Murder. He being particularly ask'd if he did not beat his Wife at all, he said, I cannot say but I have strike her about a Year since, but not after her Lying-in, as they usually



in my own hand need not tell me. My Wife was a good Woman, and might get her Death by Cold; but I have not kill'd her. I forgive them all that stood false against me, and pray God to forgive all their Souls, and give them a sight of their Sins, and lay not my Blood to them who they have wronged. I am not guilty of the Blood, as the Nurse can tell, who could not swear he was using several such Expressions in his *Wife's* Tone.

It was observable of him, that he had procured a very white new Shirt, made of *Callico*, large enough to come over all his Cloaths, which he wore uppermost, and would be hang'd in it, as is supposed, in Token of his Innocency.

Margaret Corbet, a very Young Woman of *Wandsworth*, in the County of *Surrey*, having been indicted for murdering her Infant Bastard-child, and being tried, convicted, and condemned for the same, also utterly denied the said Murders, and in the Prison, after Condemnation, spent her Time in a very careless, sottish manner, and much of it in Sleeping: when at any time she was admonished to rouse her self, and think of the short time she had to live, she would take little or no notice of such Admonition: and when the Ministers urged her very hard concerning the Murder of her Child, and told her what an unnatural Sin it was to destroy the Fruit of her own Body, with other such like Expressions; if she could no ways avoid to give an Answer, she very stiffly told them, she was not guilty of having kill'd any Child; in which dejected, careless, and stupified humour, she continued till she came to the Place of Execution, (being in truth but a very ignorant, poor Creature, hardly capable of understanding what the Ministers said to her,) but being urged how she expected to be saved, she answered, That she hoped God would have Mercy upon her; and did at length confess that she had kill'd her Child, by cutting its Throat, exclaiming a little against Young-men, and the Folly of Young-Women, being deluded by them.

Elizabeth Ford alias *Jackson*, was Tried, and found guilty of stealing Goods to the Value of five Pounds; she was an Elderly Woman, and had for many Years followed the like Trade, being a kind of Commander amongst Pick-pockets and Thieves. After her Condemnation, she proceeded to act with great Rudeness to her Fellow-Prisoners, disturbing them in their Preparations for another World; which she continued to do until her Husband brought her word, that no Interest that he could use, would prevail for a Reprieve: she then seeing there was no help, but she must dye, became more moderate in her sayings, and bewail'd her sinful Life.

When drawn to the place of Execution, she at the last made a free Confession of the several Offences by her committed, that she was Guilty of the Fact for which she now suffered; that had she been Executed several Years ago, it had been justly; that she went out of God's way by forsaking her Husband, and then God forsook her, so that she run into all manner of Wickedness. She earnestly advised all Women to be constant to their Husbands, and not defile their Marriage-Bed, which was the first Occasion of her taking those Courses that brought her to this Shameful Death. She however very sensibly declared, That she hoped for Salvation in the Mercy of God, by the Merits of Jesus Christ: and before she was Executed, she confessed to have had many Accomplices in her wicked Course; and by Name accused one, that lives in the City of *London* to have been guilty with her of some very great Crime, whose Name, and Place of Abode, was taken by the Sheriff.

Katha.

Katherine Binky was a Young Woman that had been drawn into ill Company and Company, who taking a particular Kindness for one *Ralph Baldwin*, with whom it was reported she was to be Married: in the mean time *Baldwin* so behaved himself, as to be sent to *Bridewell*; and whilst there, either that she might get him out of Prison, or some other ways help him, she took such Measures, as that they the said *Ralph Baldwin* and *Katherine Binky*, were indicted for breaking into the Dwelling House of *William Allen*, in the Parish of *St. Olave Southward*, on the 20th. of January last; at night, and stealing from thence one silver Tankard, one silver Candle-Cup, one silver Beaker, six Pounds in Money, and some other Things: but upon the Tryal it appearing, that *Baldwin* was Prisoner in *Bridewell* at the time of the Robbery, and that *Katherine Binky* brought the said Plate and Money to him thither, where it was seized, he was acquitted; but she the said *Katherine Binky* found Guilty, and Sentenced to suffer Death, spending the remaining time of her being in Prison, with much Penitence, reading the Scriptures, and giving heed to such wholesome Advice and Instructions as was administered to her; receiving the Sacrament with the rest, and increasing in her said Behaviour, to the last, expressing her self at the Place of Execution, like a true Penitent, confessing several Passages of her ill Life, and particularly the Fact for which she suffered this Death, bewailing her great Unworthiness to find Mercy with God Almighty at the last Moment, and when she had no longer opportunity to sin. But yet however, in a very sensible manner made passionate Application that her Soul might be washed from all its Impurity in the Blood of Jesus Christ; and that God would receive it into his infinite Mercy notwithstanding all her Unworthiness.

Each of the said four Prisoners having by the indefatigable Industry and spiritual Assistance of the before mentioned three Divines (who all stood in the Cart with them till ready to be drawn away) disburdened themselves; and being made sensible of that Eternity they were just entering into, each also earnestly desiring the Prayers of Ministers and People for their happy Passage, two of the Ministers (first one and then another) prayed with them very affectionately; after that, three Staves of the 139th Psalm was sung, beginning at the 10th Verse: which being ended, the Prisoners discovered the Advantage they had received thereby, to the great Joy and encouragement of those spiritual Labourers: the Ministers then came out of the Cart, and in being drawn away, the said Condemned Persons were Executed, by hanging till they were dead.

When cut down, the Body of *Mr. Burns* was put into a black Coffin, and carried on Mens Shoulders, to be buried by his Wife in *Leaden Church-yard*.

Elizabeth Ford, alias *Jackens*, *Margaret Carter*, and *Katherine Binky* were brought back to be buried in *Newington Burial*; the former of the three had a Coffin, the other two buried in their Cloaths.

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